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RUMANIAN PETROLEUM INDUSTRY ADOPTS NEW METHODS

/Summary: The Rumanian petroleum industry is attempting to increase production by introducing Soviet methods, reconditioning old machinery, mechanizing processes, training personnel, producing petroleum equipment domestically, encouraging labor competition, and popularizing Stakhanovism. During June and July 1952, the press referred to new developments of this type at Urlati, Tintea, Targoviste, Poiana, Ploesti, Moreni, Moinesti, Campina, Boldesti, and Bacoi.

Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources./

Petroleum technicians, engineers, and functionaries pledged at the end of June and beginning of July 1952 that they would increase production in honor of 23 August, Rumanian liberation day. For example, the Tintea field pledged increased production and decreased costs by continued use of Soviet methods (1). Personnel of Sovrompetrol in Urlati pledged greater success in operations, reduced costs, increased labor productivity, and mechanization of work (2). Workers of Sovrompetrol in Ploesti promised to increase production by the large-scale application of Soviet methods, by proper use of the salary fund, and by the use of precision equipment (3). Another report from Ploesti stated that 2,000 Stakhanovites and leading workers in fields, refineries, and petroleum plants had pledged to exceed the plans. Among these enterprises were 1 Mai and I. C. Frimu, working on petroleum equipment, Sovrompetrol in Poiana, and Sovrompetrol in Campina (4). Sovrompetrol in Targoviste pledged fulfillment of the 1952 plan in 11 months and reported fulfillment of the 6-months plan by 21 June (5).

New methods introduced to increase production included the complex brigade method of Soviet Worker Aga Jusein Karfarov, which was used to reduce idle time at Urlati (2). The Tintea field used the Soviet Sarif Fatkulyev method for the utilization of light mud in drilling. By this method the amount of mud was increased 30 percent while the use of steam to operate pumps was cut

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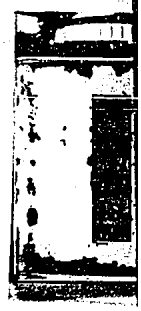


10 percent. A third method was the Sledkova method for the perfect operation of each drilling process. According to this method a drill team, aided by drillers of the next shift, reduced the time necessary for the maintenance and lubrication of equipment to 20-30 minutes.(6)

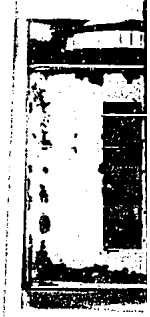
A complex method for the maximum utilization of technicians was initiated by Stakhanovite Nicolae Vasu of Matyas Rakosi in Bucharest. This was applied in the petroleum industry for the first time by a drill brigade under Grigore Manta. Subsequently, seven other brigades of Tintea, Boldesti, and Targoviste adopted the method. The brigade of Stakhanovite Manta completed drilling 14 days ahead of schedule at a cost reduction of 4.3 percent below the plan figure. The brigade of Nicolae Mitoi surpassed the average daily drilling norm 20 percent by the use of this method at Boldesti (7). The Vasu rapid-drilling method involves the combination of three factors: greatest possible speed of rotation, maximum mass of rotation, and rich circulation of mud. Manta employed a hydraulic brake in the introduction of drilling equipment into the shaft.(6)

The Zhandarov-Agafonov method was introduced at Ploesti. This, like the Sledovka method was described as involving the perfect operation of each drilling process (3). Sovrompetrol of Targoviste introduced the Soviet gas-lift method. This required the use of perforated casing caps and Krailov funnels for the rational extraction of petroleum entirely by gas pressure within the strata. As a result, the field surpassed the plan by thousands of tons. The Soviet Dimitriy Ardzhan method reduced drilling time at Targoviste 26.7 percent.(8)

Master Mechanic Dumitru Cristu of Trust No 3 Sovrompetrol, Ploesti, developed a rationalization method involving the raising and lowering of the oil pump. This method permitted a reduction in the number of valves and of high-pressure components. As a result, significant savings were expected to be achieved by the end of 1952. Master Mechanic Eremia Tavangiu developed a method which consisted of a change in the central lubrication system of steam machines and pumps. Savings from this method were expected to reach 30,000 lei by the end of 1952. Another innovation at the same trust was that of Engineer Nicolae Dragotescu. He prepared a special device for dewaxing during drilling operations. Trust No 3 received 26 innovation and rationalization suggestions in all.

The Baykov-Bortkevich method applied at 1 Mai in Ploesti by Stakhanovite brigades was found to be successful. The brigade of Gheorghe Branzaru was working on its 1955 quota at the beginning of July. The brigade of Ion Bobocea was completing its 1954 quota at that time. In addition to the Baykov-Bortkevich method, it used the Lidya Korobelnikova method.(9)

Conferences were held at various fields to explain the new methods. A conference was held in early July at Trust No 5, Sovrompetrol, in Targoviste. Personnel attending volunteered to apply the Grigore Manta method to achieve better utilization of personnel (10). The Campina Raion party committee organized a conference for personnel of the Tintea and Bacoi fields. The conference was attended by representatives of the Prahova Regiune committee, of the General Directorate of Sovrompetrol, of the trade-union council of Prahova Regiune, of Trust No 1 of Sovrompetrol of Campina, engineers, technicians, and others. Demonstrations were given of Soviet methods, of rapid drilling techniques, of pumps, and steam equipment (11). The regiune party committee of Ploesti held a conference at Bacoi for Stakhanovites, leading workers, master drillers, brigade leaders, technicians, and engineers from all fields in Prahova Regiune (7). Master Derrick Driller Gheorghe Cazan, Stakhanovite and holder of the Medal of Labor, discussed new developments at Bacoi. Ion Popescu, holder of the Medal of Labor, gave a similar talk at Refinery No 2 of Sovrompetrol in Ploesti.(12)



In addition to new ways of production, means of cutting operating costs were introduced at many fields. For example, at Urlati old or abandoned wells were put back into operation. They contributed substantially to the fulfillment of the extraction plan and cut down the expense of finding new wells (2). At Targoviste particular attention was devoted to unproductive wells. Six were restored to productivity and attempts were made to revive two others.(5)

Another factor in the decrease of production costs was the conservation of materials. Thus, savings achieved by Sovrompetrol, Ploesti, totaled 102,529.51 lei from the recovery of materials, from waste petroleum, and scrap metal (3). At Targoviste a campaign was carried on to conserve materials. Up to 9 June, 50 tons of crude petroleum had been recovered from pits, and 2,000 kilograms of scrap metal and 1,300 kilograms of paraffin had been collected. The electrical section under Ion Tudor saved 1,000 lei through the reclamation of electrical materials. A special brigade was formed to utilize wastes and scraps.

As a result of economies and increased labor productivity the cost of petroleum declined 7 lei per ton in June 1952 (5). The regiune UTM (Union of Working Youth) of Ploesti instituted a "Week of Internal Reserves" in honor of 23 August. During the 7 days of the campaign, 37,067 children and youths of the regiune enterprises collected scrap and looked for "internal reserves." For example, youths working at I. C. Primu in Sinaia collected used materials worth 6,305 lei. F. Colacaru of the Stakhanovite section of Energo-Petrol, Campina, collected material enough to make welding equipment worth 6,000 lei. In Urlati, Gh. Lupu, Gh. Ianer, Gh. Voicu, and others collected 11,000 kilograms of waste petroleum. The campaign resulted in the total collection of 691,333 kilograms of old iron, 12,250 kilograms of wire, 3,500 kilograms of "oil." In addition, 608 deffective tools were repaired.(13)

At Targoviste, secondary recovery of petroleum by means of the introduction of gases into the petroleum strata was instituted. By this means quantities of petroleum formerly considered lost are now brought to the surface (8). Secondary recovery at Sovrompetrol of Ploesti increased 210 85 percent in the second half of 1952. As a result the cost per ton of production decreased 2.45 percent and the productivity of labor per capital fulfilled the plan 104.3 percent (3). Twenty-four youths in the Stakhanovite spool section in the office of electrical equipment repair of Sovrompetrol, Campina, achieved economies in the use of wire, insulators, tin, and other materials worth about 10,000 lei. In addition, they collected 1,900 kilograms of scrap iron.(14)

The supply of equipment in most fields has been increased. Urlati reconditioned old equipment for use in dewaxing and for other purposes (2). The drilling-construction section of Trust No 2, Moreni, increased utilization of equipment by repairing drill rigs without disassembling them. Mechanic Dumitru Stefan and two helpers succeeded in repairing the mounting of one of the motors while the drill rig was being moved from one site to another (15). The increased index of utilization of drills was also emphasized at Ploesti, where the index was raised to 98 percent (3), and at Targoviste.(8)

The Boldesti field was reported to be ahead of its drilling schedule because it was using modern Soviet UZTM /Sverdlovsk Uralmash Heavy Machine Building Plant/ equipment with pump and drill operated by powerful steam motors. Trust No 3 of Sovrompetrol, Ploesti, not only has Soviet equipment, it is run by Soviet engineers and technicians. These men direct brigades and install new methods such as the lining of a well with a single instead of a double casing. This resulted in the saving of about 90,000 kilograms of tubing (16). Soviet production equipment is used in the pneumatic tool section of Independenta in Sibiu to manufacture mining hammers, drills, and other pneumatic equipment (17). Radu Georgescu, chief engineer of Sovrompetrol in Targoviste reported that precision equipment from the USSR had contributed to the plan fulfillment of his field. Mobile Kirov cranes and mobile aggregates for dewaxing drilling equipment were received.(8)

However, the over-all equipment picture was not entirely satisfactory. A number of enterprises produced petroleum equipment of poor quality. Numerous instances occurred in which drill bits lasted only a few hours. 1 Mai of Ploesti, in particular, received complaints concerning the quality of its equipment. Among these complaints was one received in June 1952 from workers of the Moinesti Drilling Office. They reported that steam pumps necessary for drilling site 809 not only arrived late but also failed to function properly when they were finally received. The pumps could not be repaired at the Moinesti shop and the drillers were forced to request new ones. Another complaint registered by petroleum workers of Moreni was that the hydraulic casing caps were not usable. Another complaint was that the automatic winch of the drill crane broke down because the bronze bearing was defective. However, 1 Mai did nothing in response to these complaints.(18)

In 1951 Sovrompetrol of Targoviste fulfilled its 1951 plan in 11 months and increased labor productivity 23.6 percent through the full use of new methods and under the direction of Soviet petroleum experts. For these accomplishments the field received the Production Banner of the Council of Ministers as the leading enterprise in the petroleum field.(8)

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